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In reply to Office Action mailed October 19, 2006
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REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on October 19, 2006. Claims 1, 10, 11, and 25-29 were pending and were rejected. With this response, the independent claims 1, 10, and 11, are amended, the remaining claims are unchanged, and no claims are canceled or added.

The pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. In this response, Applicants have amended the independent claims to bring the claims within the enablement requirement, but also reserve the right to transfer this rejection at a later time. Specifically, the Office action states the independent claims "disclose the feature of 'both the predetermined conformity requirement is automatically relaxed and the predetermined number of user profiles is increase'. However, the Applicant's specification only supports relaxing the threshold variables." Applicants have amended the independent claims so that the feature related "the predetermined number of user profiles is selectively increased for the repeating the filtering and determining steps." Applicants submit the remainder of the claims are within the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, and respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

The pending claims were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bergh in view of Sumita. With this response, Applicants have amended the independent claims to include the limitations of "wherein each user profile comprises at least one unique person having a set of personal information" and "wherein the personal information includes a profile field and a profile restriction such that the profile field contains detailed personal information and the profile restriction contains rules in the form of a pattern to restrict the rules to certain uses." Applicants submit that at least these features are not shown or suggested in any proposed proper combination of the references or the prior art.

These amended features are not shown in either Bergh or Sumita. First, these amended features find support in the specification for example, at page 71, line 24 to page 74, line 24 and in at least Figure 13, and the amendment satisfies 35 U.S.C. 112. Second, the prior art does not show that "personal information includes a profile field and a profile restriction such that the profile field contains detailed personal information and the profile restriction contains rules in

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the form of a pattern to restrict the rules to certain uses" as set forth in the amended claims. This feature is simply not shown in the references where they describe the structure and content of the profiles. Both Bergh teaches the use of user profiles including personas and Sumita teach the use of user profiles, but neither reference teaches the particular details of the user profile to any further extent. The structure of the user profile is simply left as understood in the art to be the information regarding a user or a user's particular persona.

Further, the prior art does not suggest a modification that the user profiles contain any more content or structure, or even "personal information includes a profile field and a profile restriction such that the profile field contains detailed personal information and the profile restriction contains rules in the form of a pattern to restrict the rules to certain uses" as set forth in the amended claims. In particular, the prior art does not recognize the need or benefit for the amended features. The prior art teaches the specified processes in Bergh and Sumita operating on general user profiles. The prior art is concerned with the processes used to calculate statistics, which in the case of the prior art does not concern detail about the user profiles. Therefore, it would not suggest a solution where the processes could use additional information in the user profiles to come up with a modified search taking into account "a profile field and a profile restriction." The prior art considers the formula and process on general user profiles; it does not consider the structure of the user profile to help in determining the outcome of the formula and process.

The amended features include aspects of the claims that can provide a more specific or directed result than the prior art. Because the amended features are not shown in the reference or suggested in the prior art these amended features cannot be found in any proposed combination of Bergh and Sumita. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bergh in view of Sumita be withdrawn.

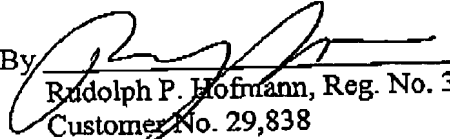
For at least the reasons above, Applicants respectfully request removal of the rejections and for favorable action and allowance of the application. If the Examiner believes that a

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conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (612) 607-7340.

Should any additional fees be necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or credit any such fees or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1901 (Reference 60021-302901).

Respectfully submitted,

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